

## **Minutes of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee**

**Friday, December 9, 2011**

Chair Tortomasi called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Jean Tortomasi, Kathleen Cummings, Bill Zaborowski, Dave Falstad, Steve Wimmer, and Peter Wolff. Paul Decker arrived at 8:31 a.m.

**Also Present:** Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Coordinator Rebecca Luczaj, Medical Examiner Dr. Lynda Biedrzycki, Senior Human Resources Analyst Renee Gage, Human Resources Manager Jim Richter, and Human Resources Analyst Andrea Bellmann. Recorded by Mary Pedersen, County Board Office.

### **Approve Minutes of November 22, 2011**

**MOTION:** Wolff moved, second by Zaborowski to approve the minutes of November 22. Motion carried 6-0.

Decker arrived at 8:31 a.m.

### **Ordinance 166-O-083: Accept Criminal Justice: JAG Smarter Sentencing Training 2009 Grant Award Through The Wisconsin Office Of Justice Assistance**

Luczaj discussed this ordinance which involves accepting a \$20,153 State grant to host the Research-Based Smarter Sentencing training on January 19 and 20, 2012 at the Country Springs Hotel. The funds will pay for a consultant to conduct the training sessions estimated at \$12,000; participant travel, conference room rental and related costs estimated at \$4,445; printing costs estimated at \$1,500; and countywide and Health & Human Services Department indirect cost recovery estimated at \$2,208.

Luczaj said five of the County's judges, District Attorney Brad Schimel, Sam Benedict of the Public Defender's Office, and a staff member from Probation and Parole will attend the training. The grant covers 50 attendees and agency staff from several southeastern Wisconsin counties will also attend. Waukesha and Eau Claire counties were selected to host the training which will focus on best practices in sentencing based on research, alternatives to incarceration, cost savings, judges utilizing risk assessment/tools at the time of sentencing, how sentencing can affect recidivism, etc.

Tortomasi was concerned this could equate to being soft on crime. Luczaj said the same training was offered on the east coast. She does not believe the goal is to be soft on crime but to look at the research and utilize best practices throughout our criminal justice system.

**MOTION:** Cummings moved, second by Falstad to approve Ordinance 166-O-083. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Ordinance 166-O-082: Appropriate Additional Revenues And Expenditures To The Medical Examiner's 2011 Budget**

Biedrzycki discussed this ordinance which authorizes appropriation of \$32,000 of additional Charges for Services revenues to the 2011 budget which are generated from increased cremation

permits issued and higher contract revenues from autopsies than what was budgeted. These additional revenues will be used to purchase more medical services, laboratory tests, and expenditures for contract coverage for medical, pathologist, and deputy medical examiner assistance, vehicle fuel costs, and higher than anticipated phone charges for smart phone technology.

This ordinance increases 2011 budget appropriations for operating expenses by \$27,000 from \$201,095 to \$228,095 and interdepartmental charge appropriations by \$5,000 from \$102,376 to \$107,376 to fund the above-mentioned costs. Biedrzycki explained some of the cost drivers which include the following: more infant deaths this year than last year, two skeletons were sent to Texas to be evaluated for identification purposes, and some autopsies were outsourced due to staff shortages within the office.

She does expect additional revenues from Racine County this year, the most autopsies from Racine since 2005. In addition, they underestimate cremation revenues when budgeting so there will be more revenues than what was budgeted in this area for 2011.

MOTION: Falstad moved, second by Cummings to approve Ordinance 166-O-082. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **Ordinance 166-O-085: Approve Reclassification Of A Position In The Medical Examiner's Office**

Biedrzycki, Gage, Richter and Bellmann were present to discuss this ordinance which abolishes a Departmental Secretary (salary range \$36,393-\$42,010) and creates an Office Services Coordinator position (salary range \$41,406-\$52,831) in the Medical Examiner's Office. Assuming the new position is filled at the bottom of the salary range in 2012, the total cost of this position with benefits is estimated at \$67,900 for 2012. The Departmental Secretary position was budgeted at a cost estimate of \$56,300 in the 2012 budget. Therefore, the estimated shortfall of \$11,600 will need to be funded through additional position vacancy and turnover savings in 2012.

Richter said the position became vacant this past fall at which time staff felt it was a good time to review the duties and responsibilities. It was apparent after the study concluded that the position was under-classified. A fund transfer may be necessary next year to cover some of the additional costs which would be minimal.

MOTION: Wimmer moved, second by Decker to approve Ordinance 166-O-085. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **Reports by Committee Member Liaisons**

Decker said he recently attended a conference on analytics for better cities. One item discussed was how crime is tied to level of education and more studies are being conducted on this. When recidivism rates go down, costs go down. He noted that increased reading and math skills levels seem to result in reduced crime.

#### **Announcements**

Cummings said the City of Waukesha will likely consider shared dispatch in January and members of the City's Common Council will be touring the Waukesha County Communications Center.

**Future Meeting Date**

- January 13, 2012

**Legislative Update**

Spaeth said the State Department Corrections is operating at a deficit and is considering cutting Youth Aids even further. For 2012, \$300,000 or 10% was cut from our budget and State staff are suggesting an additional 7% cut. Spaeth said she and staff will lobby heavily against the additional cut.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Review Educational Components Offered in the Jail and Related Recidivism Rates (Wolff)

MOTION: Zaborowski moved, second by Decker to adjourn at 9:07 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Cummings  
Secretary